



## PHICHIT

*"Land of the Legend"*

*Phichit is situated in the lower Northern Region of Thailand. The name "Phichit" means "The Beautiful Town". It was probably founded by Phraya Khot Thabong in 1056. During the Sukhothai period (1238-1350), the community was named "Sa Luang" which was one of the important towns of Sukhothai. Phichit was named again in Ayutthaya period (1350-1767) as "Okhaburi" (Town in the Swamp) and it was the place where King Sanphet VIII or "Phrachao Sua" of Ayutthaya was born. Phichit was designated as a province during Rattanakosin (Bangkok) period, in the reign of King Rama V (1868-1910).*





*Phichit* occupies an area of 4,531.014 square kilometers and is located 345 kms. to the north of Bangkok. The province is having its territory bordering on : Phitsanulok in the North, Phetchabun in the East, Nakhon Sawan in the South, Kamphaeng Phet and Nakhon Sawan in the West. It is administratively divided into 8 Amphoes (district) : Muang, Bang Mun Nak, Pho Prathap Chang, Pho Thale, Sam Ngam, Taphan Hin, Thapkhlo, Wang Sai Phun, Sak Lek, Bung Narang, Dongchareon and Vachira Baramree. The number of inhabitant of Phichit is 559,000 in 1992.

The province's economic is based on agriculture. The important economic crops are rice, corn, green pea, and various kinds of tasteful typical fruit.



*Biking along rubber tree tracks in Nakhon Chaibaworn park*

The Thai famous legend "Kraithong", the love story was also originated in Phichit. It was so impressive that the story has been wellknown through out the country so the province itself is also known as "the Land of the Legend"



## TRAVELING

*Phichit* is further up north of Thailand and can be reached both by car by train and by bus.



*Five children are needed to encircle this huge rubber tree*

### By Car

**ROUTE 1** - From Bangkok, take the highway no.1. At Ayutthaya switch to Asia Road at Nakhon Sawan, proceed along the route of Nakhon Sawan - Chumsaeng - Bang Munnak - Taphan Hin - Phichit (The highway no. 1118). Total distance is about 345 kms.

**ROUTE 2** - From Bangkok, take highway no.1. At Ayutthaya, switch to Asia Road. At Amphoe In Buri, Sing Buri Province, follow the route Takfa - Khosai - Saklek (the highway no. 11). At Ban Saklek, proceed along the highway no.111. Total distance is about 344 kms.

**ROUTE 3** - From Bangkok, take highway no.1. At Ayutthaya, switch to Asia Road. At Amphoe In Buri, Sing Buri Province, follow the route Takfa - Khosai (the highway no. 11). Switch to the route Khosai - Taphan Hin - Phichit (the highway no.113). Total distance is about 338 kms.

**ROUTE 4** - From Bangkok, take highway no. 1. At Ayutthaya, switch to Asia Road. At Nakhon Sawan switch to the route Nakhon Sawan - Phitsanulok ( the highway no. 117). At Amphoe Sam Ngam, follow the route Sam Ngam - Phichit (the highway no.115). Total distance is 360 kms.



### By Train

The State Railway of Thailand has provided the round trip service between Hua Lamphong Railway Station, Bangkok and Phichit many times a day. For more information, contact the public relation department. Tel : 02-223-7010, 223-7020, 223-0341 ext 5311-3

### By Bus

Bus service between Bangkok and Phichit is available many times a day at the North Terminal Bus Station. Tel : (02) 272-0299

### By air-conditioned bus

The Thavorn Farm Company has operated an air-conditioned bus from Bangkok to Phichit. For more information, contact Tel : (02) 278-4155



*Dense rubber tree forest in Nakhon Chaitaworn Park*



*Paddling the boat on the River Yom is one of the fun activities at Potatlay*



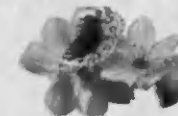
*Ruan Moke, the lodge constructed with mango wood, is full of natural charm*



## ATTRACTIONS

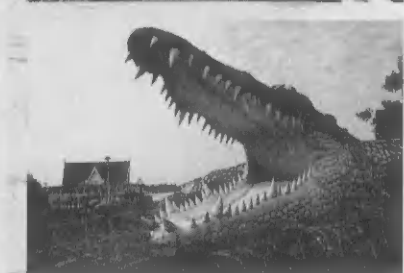
### Wat Tha Luang

This monastery is situated on the west bank of Nan River near the Provincial Hall, housing a bronze Chiang Saen style Buddha image, cast in the attitude of subduing evil, in the main shrine hall. The image is believed to have been brought from the north, by "Khun Phaen", to be enshrined here. The name of the Buddha image is "Luang Pho Phet" having the lap width of 1.40 meters and regarded an important Buddha image of Phichit which is highly respected by Phichit inhabitants.



### Bung Si Fai

This 12,000 rai swamp, (2.5 rai is equivalent to 1 acre) located 1 km. west of Phichit Market, having water all year round, is a fish breeding source surrounded by lotus, grown by the people for use of its flowers and leaves, along the bank. It is a nice place for relaxation and picnic dining. The place is also decorated with "Phichit Crocodile Auditorium", an auditorium constructed in the shape of a huge crocodile. Since Phichit was once full of Crocodiles. Main functional part is the "Stomach" which contains at most 30 persons in an air-conditioned hall. Its other dimensions are as follow : 30 meter long, 3 meter high and 4.5 meters is the length of the head alone.



### Suan Somdet Phrasri Nakaninthra Phichit

It is the first park of its kind in Thailand. In 1984, the Phichit Provincial Administration in cooperation with the Department of Non-formal Education established the park on the whole area of 170 rai. Within the park is a large pond called "Bung Si Fai" where a giant pavilion has been built for recreational purpose. The pavilion can be accessed by a linking bridge. Along the edge of the pond and the walkway around, it is decorated with big trees and flower plants. In addition, there is a grassy slope used as a stage for public entertainment on weekends.



### Crocodile Figure Phya Chalawan

It is a crocodile figure 38 meters long, 6 Meters wide and 5 meters high. Its mouth is measured 4.5 meters long. This striking figure stands in front of Bung Si Fai. Within its huge body, there is a convention room with its capacity of 20-30 seats.

### Fish Display Center

It is a star shape building located in the Bung Si Fai. Inside, there are showcases of more than 20 unknown fish species. Different fish species are displayed on a rotation basis. At the central part of the building, there is space provided for seeing various fishes living in the pond and gathering to be fed by visitors. The center is open for the public during 10.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays and 10.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m. on weekends.





### Local Products Center

Local products and souvenirs on sale are the basketry from water hyacinth, woven cloth of Ban Pa Daeng, mixed tamarind, etc. The center is open everyday except Monday.

### The Old City Park

It is located on Phichit - Wang Chik Road, about 8 kms. from Phichit township. It is believed that this area used to be the old Phichit town approximately 900 years ago. In the park, there is an arboretum, a peaceful relaxing place for local people. In addition, there are Ko Si Mala, Tham Chalawan and sculptures of important features from a Thai literature "Kraithong"

### City Pillar Shrine

This shrine has been placed on the second floor of the two-storey building. The statue of "Phya Khottabang" or so-called "Pho Pu" is housed on the first floor. The building is surrounded by many trees. This provides a pleasant scene. In addition, there is a recreation pavilion.

### Wat Mahathat

This monastery is located approximately 300 meters from Wat Nakhon Chum, also in the area of the old city presumed to have been constructed in Sukhothai period. Objects of art found from excavation made in this temple are potter and Buddha images of various eras



### Tham Chalawan

The cave has its origin from the literature "Krai Thong" Wrote by King Rama II. It is 1 meter wide 1.50 meters long and 4 meters deep. The local tale says that over 65 years ago, a Buddhist monk of Wat Nakhon Chum walked with a candle into the cave and did not reach the cave when the candle was burnt out. Therefore, nobody can tell how beautiful the cave inside is. At present, the cave is lesser deep because it has been gradually destroyed by time. The statues of Krai Thong and Chalawan are installed at the cave entrance.

### Wat Nakhon Chum

This is an ancient monastery located in Tombon Muang Kao in the area of the old city, 11 kms. from the township area. It had been utilized as a place where an oath, through water drinking, ceremony took place in the old days. This is, however, the place where an old main Shrine Hall and the 800-year-old Buddha image are located.



### Wat Rong Chang

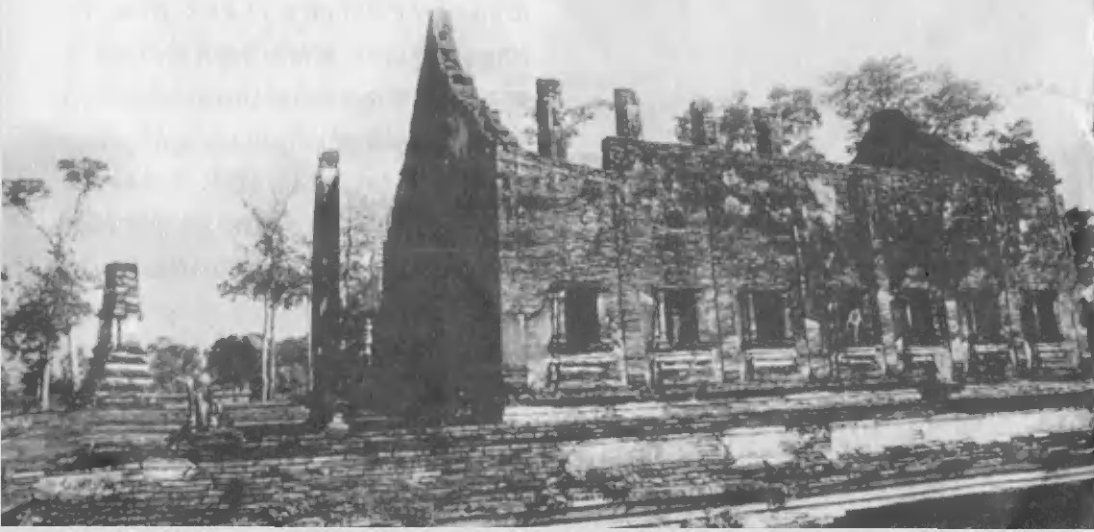
Located in Tambon Rong Chang, this monastery is on Phichit - wang Chik Road about 5 kms. far from town. During the reign of Phraya Kottabong, this area was called "Kong Chang" (Elephant gatering) because it was a rest area of elephant and mahouts. The word was later become "Khleng Chang" Until the school was officially established, the monastery was renamed "Wat Rong Chang"

Within the monastery compound, there are 3 giant Buddha images in different postures : Subduing Evil, Reclining and Restraining. The most interesting thing is the big Chedi with an underground room used for keeping the bricks that 84,000

sections of the Buddhist Scripture are inscribed. The construction of the hidden room is based on the foreseen view that there might be an unexpected event such as a nuclear war, which can erase the existance of the Buddhist Scripture in the world.

### Wat Pho Prathab Chang

Located in Tambon Pho Prathab Chang, kms south of Klong Khachen-Lamnam Nan Kao Road, is an ancient monastery surrounded by walls and once was used by King Narai the Great as a camp site for his troops in a northern trip. It is also the place where King Sua or King Sanphet VIII was born.



### Wat Khao Roop Chang

This Wat is located approximately 15 kms. south of Phichit on Phichit - Taphan Hin Road having its remain shrine hall built on a hilltop where white rocks stack up forming an elephant figure. A walking Buddha and replica of Buddha's Footprints are housed in this monastery.

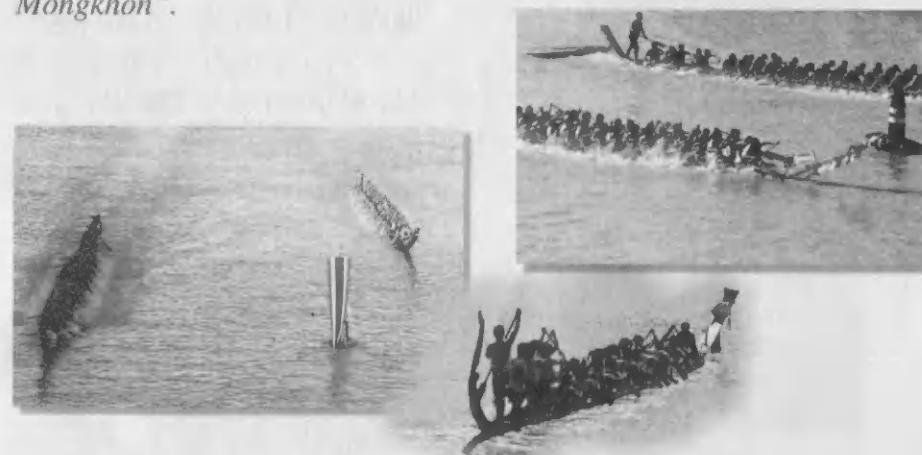
### Phra Buddha Ket Mongkhon

This is otherwise called "Luangpho to Taphan Hin" The Largest Sitting Buddha Image, openly enshrined in Wat Theva Prasat, of the north. the construction was completed in 1970 having the lap width of 20 meters with 24 meters in height and its name was bestowed by H.M. the King as "Phra Buddha Ket Mongkhon".

### Wat Phra Phutthabat Khao Ruak

It is located in Mu5, Tambon Wang Lum, about 10 kms far from Amphoe Taphan Hin. Within the monastery, there is a replica of the Buddha footprints, an imitation of Wat Phra Phutthabat Saraburi.

The famous buddhist monk, Pra Achan Ngon Sairayo usually stays at this monastery during Buddhist Lent in the rainy season. He had built Phra Phutthawimok, the Buddha image in meditation with the lap width of 29 inches, and gave it to schools throughtout the country. There is also a small zoo which has a lot of animals in peaceful atmosphere



### Wat Huay Khen

It is located in Tambon Huay Khen, about 8 kms. far from Amphoe Bang Mun Nak on Bang Mun Nak Wang Nguai Road. Within its ancient temple having be registered by the Fine Arts Department, there is an original mural painting describing some part of the well - known story "Ramakien" or "Ramayana epics"



### Wat Hirangaram (Wat Bang Khlan)

Perviously called Wat Wang Tako, this monastery is located in Amphoe Pho Tale on the bank of the Nam Kao River. One of the interesting things is antiques which have been collected long ago. Most of the antiques were given by donators. Among them are Buddha images, votive tablets, pottery, etc. Its attractive building "Chai Bovon Museum" is a two storey structure in Mondop shape. The life size bronze stature of Luang Pho Ngoen, the most revered Buddhist monk who used to stay at this monastery for the Buddhist Lent during the rainy season, is housed on the second floor. This museum is the only and first one in Phichit

### Wat Tha Chang

This monastery is located in Tambon Noen Makok, about 2 kms. far from Amphoe Bang Mun Nak, Within the compound, there is an ancient stone Buggha image. The giant elephant figures are easily noticed in front of this monastery.



## PHICHIT'S INTERSTING THINGS

### Amulets

The amulets or votive tablets of Phichit are very popular. The votive tablets are said to be found in the area of the ancient town and most of them are of Sukhothai Period. The votive tablets are named after their places and appearances, for example, Phra Phichit Ketkot, Phra Phichit Met Khaomao, Phra Phichit Bai Makham, Phra Phichit Tin Do, Phra Phichit Kru Malako. Among consecrated coins, the favourite one of the amulet fonders is the bronze coin of Luang Po Ngoen, Wat Chang Khlan, which has been believed to provide safety and being proof against weapons.

### Mixed Tamarind

It is well-known gift among tourist. This tasty sweet is suitable for both a snack during the trip and a pleasant gift. It is inexpensive in price and available at all souvenir shops or the original shop near the way to Bung Si Fai.

### Woven Cloth of Ban Pa Daeng

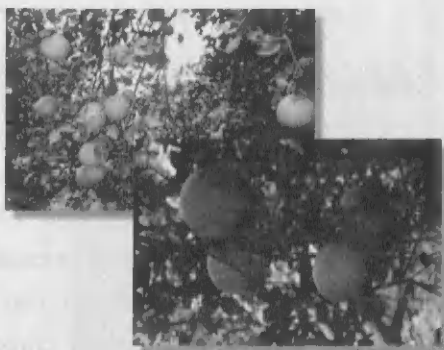
It is a Thai Traditional cloth woven from cotton and silk in different colors. Its price is much cheaper than the woven cloth of other provinces. By these qualities, the Pa Daeng woven cloth is popular in some European countries : Italy, France, etc. It is available for sale at Ban Pa Daeng Mu 1 and Mu 6, Tambon Nong Phayom, about 5 kms. far from Amphoe Taphan Hin.





### Tha Khloy Pomelo

It is the most famous fruit of the North. Firstly grown in Ban Tha Khloy, Tambon Muang Kao over a hundred year ago, it was then brought to plant in Amphoe Pho Prathub Chang where it has produced a good result. Nowadays, the growing area has been expanded to the districts in Phichit. The Tha Khoy pomelo is popular because it is tasty, juicy, fine grained and seedless. Normally, the fruit is marketed during October - April.



### Santol

It is mostly grown in Ban Wang Tap Sai, Tambon Tha Yiam. The famous santol of Phichit is "Nim Nuan" and "Pui Fai". Their fruits have smooth surface, fluffy white meat and sweet taste. When fully ripe, their soft peel is edible. It usually bears fruits at the beginning of June.

### Mango

The famous mango of Phichit is "Pha Lun, Phet Ban Lat, and Nong Sang". Usually eaten its ripe fruits is "Nam Dok Mai". The growing area is in Tambon Tha Yiam, Amphoe Muang. The advantage of Phichit is that its mango trees bears fruits before season during February-April.



### Marian Plum

This fruit has just become famous, especially "Prang Khai". The special quality is an egg-size fruit with delicious taste. Mostly grown in Ban Bang Phien, Amphoe Muang, Amphoe Taphan Hin and Amphoe Prathap Chang. It starts bearing fruits at the end of February.

### Mafai Wan

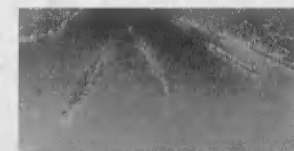
The famous Mafai Wan of Phichit is "Rien Thong" and "Khai Tao". The two kinds have tasty sweet. They are widely grown in Tambon Tapman, Amphan Hin. They bears many fruits at the beginning of April.



## FESTIVAL

### Phichit Annual Boat Racing

With the cooperation between Phichit province and Tourism Authority of Thailand, inter-provincial boat racing is restored to be a national level festival, taking place on every first Saturday and Sunday of September, at the bank of Nan River in front of Wat Tha Luang. The main features of the festival are boat racing and boat procession beauty contest which is regarded an exciting, joyful and colourful one.



## ACCOMMODATION

*Note : telephone area code is 056 F = Fan A = Airconditioned*

### *Phichit Plaza :*

9 Sra Luang Road Tel : 613502-9 Fax : 613501  
Rates/Baht : 1,800-7,800 (A)

### *Okha Nakhon :*

2/91 Si Mala Road Tel : 611206, 611321, 611654  
Rates/Baht : 800-2,600 (A)

### *Si Mala :*

2/84 Si Mala Road Tel : 611322  
Rates/Baht : 100-200 (F,A)

### *Accommodation for the youth*

For the youth or the educational institutions that wish to visit Phichit in group during school holidays, accommodation can be reserved with headmaster of Methi Phitthaya School. The school is located in Tambon Tha Bo, Amphoe Muang, Phichit. Its 18 classrooms can support 500-700 visitors. The allowed period is 1-7 days during school vacation and 1-2 days during school weekends.

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## แผนที่จังหวัดพิจิตร • MAP OF PHICHIT

